

Warren Zimmermann also agreed essentially with Commission views about being bold on human rights, on naming the names of political prisoners and divided families as well as the names of the countries whose governments were denying them and many others their basic human rights. Ambassador Zimmermann challenged the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies to uphold their Helsinki Final Act commitments. This happened during the critical first years that Gorbachev was in power in Moscow, and the Vienna meeting helped to give real meaning to words like glasnost and perestroika by insisting, before it would conclude, on actual implementation of existing commitments along with more specific and forward-looking new human rights commitments.

To his credit, and with potential implications for his career, Ambassador Zimmermann was prepared to remain in Vienna until the Soviets resolved long-standing human rights cases. During the course of the meeting, over 600 of the 750 Soviet political prisoners listed as such by the United States were freed, including all Helsinki monitors. The number of bilateral family reunification cases was reduced from 150 to about 10, and foreign radio broadcast jamming ended. While other, larger factors were, of course, at play, Warren Zimmermann, the U.S. Delegation and the friends and allies of the United States meeting in Vienna from 1986 to 1989 helped in no small way to bring an end to the Cold War and the decades-long, artificial division of Europe.

Warren Zimmermann not only engaged his fellow diplomats. He also developed close contacts with Soviet human rights activists during his postings at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow which he maintained through the Vienna meeting. For his efforts on behalf of refugees, he was awarded the Anatoly Sharansky Freedom Award by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

After the Vienna meeting ended in 1989, he went on to serve as the United States Ambassador to Yugoslavia. In that capacity, he would again work with the Commission at a decisive time, namely the beginning of the violent disintegration of the Yugoslav federation. The Helsinki principles, which we had just defended in Vienna, were about to witness their most severe violations primarily at the direction of Slobodan Milosevic. Ambassador Zimmermann knew well the complexities of the Balkans, but, like the Commission, he also knew that human rights violations—in this case taking the form of ethnic cleansing—could not be explained and accepted as the historical inevitability that the region's nationalist propagandists would want us to believe.

Warren Zimmermann's approach to U.S. foreign policy embraced the broader, comprehensive view of security that was relevant to the Cold War, to the Balkan conflicts and to our world today. In 1986, he noted the vital connection between a state's approach to human rights domestically and its conduct internationally. "If a state is pathologically distrustful of its own citizens," he asked, "is it not prone to a certain paranoia in its foreign policy? If a state does not earn the trust of its own citizens, should it have the confidence of other states? If a state is a threat to its own people, can it fail to present a potential threat to peoples beyond its borders?"

Mr. Speaker, Warren Zimmermann was an American patriot who served this Nation with

honor and distinction for decades. His professional legacy is marked by a continual striving for freedom, democracy and human rights, and today there are innumerable people in Europe and elsewhere who live freer, happier lives because of his life's work.

I want to extend my sincerest condolences to Ambassador Zimmermann's wife, Teeny, his entire family, many friends and admiring colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE AND MARY GLEASON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to pay tribute today to two phenomenal individuals from my district who have devoted over a half century to each other and to their fellow citizens. George and Mary Gleason of Aspen, Colorado, recently marked 60 years of marriage. As they, their family, and friends celebrate this union, I would like to take this time to honor the Gleasons and their dedication to each other before this body of Congress and this nation.

George and Mary first met in 1942. As native Coloradans, they attended college in state and exchanged their vows there as well. Early in their marriage, the Gleason's spent time away from the state during World War II due to George's career as an aerospace engineer. As dedicated skiers, Aspen was a favorite destination for them and they eventually purchased a cabin there. In the 1980s they became permanent residents. The Gleason were able to pass along the love of this town to their children, many of whom still call Aspen home. The Gleasons have truly become pillars in this picturesque mountain town, maintaining their love of skiing and organizing outdoors trips for the senior community.

Mr. Speaker, George and Mary Gleason have maintained their commitment to each other and to their community for 60 years. Their enthusiasm for life and for the outdoors is infectious for all who they encounter. Their love for each other, their children, and grandchildren knows no bounds. I am honored to pay tribute to the anniversary of their vows and to the abiding love the Gleasons have for each other. I wish them many more years in matrimonial bliss. Happy 60th wedding anniversary!

HONORING FRENCH WORLD WAR II VETERAN OUTREACH AMBASSADORS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three French citizens who, in spite of prevailing politics, have graciously opened their communities and homes to visiting World War II veterans as part of a person-to-person outreach leading up to the 60th anniversary observance of the Normandy invasion.

The 70th Infantry Division fought in the Alsace/Lorraine province of France for 86 consecutive days during World War II. The division successfully liberated 58 towns before culminating their combat by breaching the Siegfried Line at Saarbrücken, Germany. During the operation they suffered 835 killed in action, 2,713 wounded, and lost 397 soldiers as prisoners of war. An additional 54 of their number were classified as missing in action.

Since the war, veterans of the division have returned many times, establishing lasting friendships among the people they helped to liberate. In return, the people of France have erected solemn monuments to their liberators and routinely decorate the graves of Americans buried in nearby military cemeteries.

As preparations commence to observe the 60th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 invasion at Normandy, I would like to specifically recognize three individuals whose consistent hospitality is demonstrative of the goodwill that continues to be shared between many French citizens and the American veterans who fought for their liberation.

Mr. Leon Dietsch, Mayor of Spicheren, has hosted numerous receptions during recent years to honor visiting Americans. Mr. Dietsch was particularly instrumental in establishing a memorial on Spicheren Heights, the site of one of the bloodiest battles in the history of the 70th Infantry Division.

I also wish to honor Mr. Edwin Neis, curator of the Museum of History and Military at Freyming-Merlebach, France. The museum maintains numerous displays depicting American operations during the battle to liberate the area in World War II. Mr. Neis has gone to great efforts to honor American soldiers and make all American visitors feel welcome when they visit.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the family of Thomas Kirsch of Spicheren. The Kirsch family has welcomed American veterans into their homes as guests, treating visitors to home cooked meals and rich cultural activities. Their friendship to visiting Americans contributes greatly to the fostering of good French/American relations.

Mr. Speaker, in these times of global insecurities, it is refreshing to observe that, in spite of political and cultural differences, the people of the United States and France can still warmly reach out and embrace each other in friendship and respect.

HONORING MAKER'S MARK DISTILLERY FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BATCH

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first batch of whisky being barreled at the Maker's Mark Distillery in Loretto, Kentucky.

As you may be aware, bourbon whisky is "America's native spirit." It was recognized by a 1964 Act of Congress as a "Distinctive product of the United States." This designation has brought prestige and respect to this fine whisky. However, over the years, the Maker's Mark brand has brought even more.

Maker's Mark was created in 1953 by Bill Samuels, Sr. Dissatisfied with the traditional